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TB

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/179,945 10/27/98 ADAMS

J

007277 QM32/0814
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EXAMINER

PARADISO, J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3721
DATE MAILED:

08/14/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/179,945

Applicant(s)

ADAMS ET AL.

Examiner

John R. Paradiso

Art Unit

3721

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 7/20/2001 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/179,945 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by BIRENBAUM ET AL.

BIRENBAUM ET AL discloses a programmable apparatus for aiding a player in a game of bingo. The apparatus comprises a processor (26) with port connections for various I/O, memory, and power functions. The processor receives instructions from an input device comprising input keys (18) that allow the user to enter data associated with the game. The processor also receives information from a memory module (14) which contains the configurations and serial numbers of a large set of bingo cards (both regular and paper cards) as well as the possible winning configurations. The processor sends data to an output device in the form of a display (16) that so that game information can be read by the user.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5, 7, 8, 12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BIRENBAUM ET AL.

BIRENBAUM ET AL discloses a programmable apparatus for aiding a player in a game of bingo. The apparatus comprises a processor (26) with port connections for various I/O, memory, and power functions. The processor receives instructions from an input device comprising input keys (18) that allow the user to enter data associated with the game. The processor also receives information from a memory module (14) which contains the configurations and serial numbers of a large set of bingo cards (both regular and paper cards) as well as the possible winning configurations. The processor sends data to an output device in the form of a display (16) that so that game information can be read by the user.

(See BIRENBAUM ET AL columns 1-4 and figure 1 and 3.)

Art Unit: 3721

6. Claims 2, 4, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BIRENBAUM ET AL in view of RICHARDSON (US 4,747,600) as set forth in paragraph 5 of the previous Office Action.

BIRENBAUM ET AL discloses a programmable apparatus for aiding a player in a game of bingo, as described above.

BIRENBAUM ET AL does not disclose using the apparatus to communicate with other similar apparatus' with a communications protocol or keeping an account of cash which is debited for games and credited for wins.

RICHARDSON discloses a programmable apparatus for aiding a player in a game of bingo in which a base unit processor (10) communicates with a remote player apparatus processor (12) through a communication port (24). The base unit processor also communicates with validation unit processors (14) which in turn use cables (30) to communicate with the player apparatus processors. The validation unit processors also send credit information to the player apparatus processor upon verification of a win.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of BIRENBAUM ET AL to use a communication protocol to connect to another processor, as taught by RICHARDSON, to enable the validation and payout upon fulfilling a winning combination.

It would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of BIRENBAUM ET AL to provide a cash account which could be debited for games and credit for validated wins, as taught by RICHARDSON.

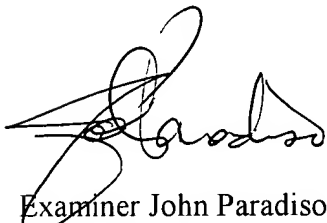
Art Unit: 3721

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Paradiso. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (ET).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo, can be reached at the number listed below.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the 3700 Technology Center receptionist.



Examiner John Paradiso (703) 308-2825
Formal Faxes: (703) 305-3579/80
Supervisor Peter Vo (703) 308-1789
Receptionist (703) 308-1148

August 12, 2001

Attachment for PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier)
6/18/01

The below text replaces the pre-printed text under the heading, "Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes," on the back of the PTO-948 (Rev. 03/01, or earlier) form.

INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES

1. Correction of Informalities -- 37 CFR 1.85

New corrected drawings must be filed with the changes incorporated therein. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name, and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin. If corrected drawings are required in a Notice of Allowability (PTOL-37), the new drawings **MUST** be filed within the **THREE MONTH** shortened statutory period set for reply in the Notice of Allowability. Extensions of time may NOT be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) or (b) for filing the corrected drawings after the mailing of a Notice of Allowability. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

2. Corrections other than Informalities Noted by Draftsperson on form PTO-948.

All changes to the drawings, other than informalities noted by the Draftsperson, **MUST** be made in the same manner as above except that, normally, a highlighted (preferably red ink) sketch of the changes to be incorporated into the new drawings **MUST** be approved by the examiner before the application will be allowed. No changes will be permitted to be made, other than correction of informalities, unless the examiner has approved the proposed changes.

Timing of Corrections

Applicant is required to submit the drawing corrections within the time period set in the attached Office communication. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Failure to take corrective action within the set period will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application.